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Japan's Part.

Some questions frequently heard, not in the way of criticism or complaint but merely of uninstructed wonder, concern the absence of Japan's powerful and well prepared military force from either the eastern or the western European front. A sensible and satisfactory reply is afforded in the remarks of Dr. TOYOKICHI IYENAGA yesterday at a gathering of the Rotary Club of this town.

This intelligent and friendly representative of Japanese opinion, who knows America almost as well as he knows his own country, points out again the salient facts about Japan's important contributions heretofore to the common cause, and the reasons which have limited and yet limit the field of her military and naval operations. It is scarcely necessary to say that those contributions have been splendid in efficiency and in results. It is quite as unnecessary to dwell upon the circumstances which, as every well informed observer of the situation knows very well, have defined the scope of Japan's cooperative activities and have hitherto rendered inadvisable or unnecessary her appearance in force in the trenches to which the United States is sending its men. The commonest query, however, heard nowadays, asks why Japan is not now pouring troops into Russia to fill the gaps of defensive and offensive force which the deplorable state of affairs in that country has produced, to the detriment of Allied progress toward victory. Of this Dr. IYENAGA says:

"Those who advocate in an easy fashion the despatch of Japanese forces to Russia for the purpose of rehabilitating the morale of Russian troops, completely ignore the psychology of the Russian people. * * * But the foremost of all questions is that of transportation. The Trans-Siberian railroad, although it may have seen a considerable improvement through the help of American engineers, is, I fear, still in a paralyzed condition, or at least is overtaxed in hauling across Siberia the military provisions piled up mountain high in Vladivostok. The only alternative, then, would be to transport Japanese troops by sea. But where can you get the required ships? In transporting a million Japanese soldiers—nothing less than this number would prove of any effective value—with all the necessary paraphernalia of war, it would probably require 4,000,000 of tonnage, in other words, 1,000 oceangoing ships of 4,000 tons."

This is as specific as it is conclusive; and when Dr. IYENAGA adds that if Japan were to commandeer her entire merchant marine fit for the ocean voyage it would require probably two years and a half before the transportation programme could be completed, with the commerce of the Far East with America and Europe meanwhile wholly paralyzed, he has covered the ground.

This speech of sound common sense and clear perception of the possible leaves little to be said of Japan's loyal readiness to do anything which unfolding events may require in the future—"to risk all, sacrifice all," in Dr. IYENAGA's words, "at the altar of the common cause." That is not doubted in any quarter.

If there is anything to criticise in the remarks now under consideration it is the suggestion that the appearance of Japanese soldiers shoulder to shoulder with the French, the British and the Americans might reawaken "the cry of 'yellow peril' which is now fortunately on the point of being committed to oblivion." Whatever may be the case with regard to Russian psychology, we assure our accomplished friend that so far as the people of the United States are concerned that phantasm of German creation, that barrier of poisonous gas, melted into nothingness at the coming and going of the Viscount ISHII.

What Italy Knows.

The hideous story of German plotting in Italy is of vital interest to every allied country. It should be read as a revelation by certain Americans who have unconsciously kept alive the German opportunity in this part of the world.

When Germany got ready for the descent upon Italy the ground had been prepared. A division of public opinion had been created and nourished by German agents in Italy, and it was brought to its most potent stage at the proper moment. The Italian armies were overrun by spies who managed to distribute pamphlets and fake newspapers telling of disasters among the Italian people at home, the imminence of revolution and the death of many women and children at the hands of the Government. During the Italian retreat false orders were given and complete panic was achieved at some sections of the line. Into this mass of disheartened soldiers the German army dashed. It was not a military victory; it was a propaganda victory.

In the United States the progress of spy work has been less easy because of the better means of exposing it. But in America, as in Italy, the plotters have been able to delay war work, destroy supplies and poison the minds of some until they are almost ready to accept the belief that German victory is the will of GOD.

We have better facilities than Italy for discovering and hanging spies and silencing propagandists. Let us use them before our tolerance has wrought fiendish harm.

Judge Hylan's Present Opportunity to Check Extravagance.

Judge HYLAN, speaking from the assured position of Mayor-elect, and not as a candidate for office, said yesterday that:

"The money of the people has been spent with utter disregard of value to be returned to our citizens.

"My main duty will be to see that for every dollar the people are called upon to contribute full value will be returned in the upkeep and development of our city and its institutions."

It will be, in truth, one of the "main duties" of Mayor HYLAN to see that "for every dollar the people are called on to contribute full value" shall be had; but this is not the only responsibility that falls on him and his associates.

Every dollar spent should bring 100 cents worth of goods or labor to the city; and the number of dollars spent should be reduced to the lowest possible total. If "the money of the people" has, in Judge HYLAN's phrase, "been spent with utter disregard of value," the city budget must be swollen beyond all reason. That being the case, its total might be reduced in a substantial sum by honest seekers for economies; and we have already directed attention to the fact that the $240,000,000 budget for 1918 is now in the hands of the Board of Aldermen, which is controlled by Judge HYLAN's partisans and supporters. They have the authority and right to eliminate from it every appropriation which exceeds the actual needs of the city; more, to effect these savings is their sworn task.

Consequently, if Judge HYLAN is in earnest about Fusion extravagance, we shall see the Aldermen cut the budget in substantial sums; and if they do not we shall be justified in believing one of two things: that Judge HYLAN has been misinformed as to the extravagance of the Fusion administration, or that his promises of retrenchment are mere political camouflage.

The Six Teachers.

The transfer by the Board of Education of six teachers, accused or suspected of seditious opinion or practices, from the De Witt Clinton High School to "widely separated parts of the city," immediately presents to the philosophical mind a question of profound interest.

If the teachers thus transferred were not good enough or loyal enough for the school from which they were removed, are they good enough or loyal enough for the distant schools to which they are removed?

Are they good enough and loyal enough, in fact, for any school within the American system?

Where Conscription Failed.

A special tax for military eligibles is not universally regarded as a happy substitute for conscription in Australia. Its material helpfulness is welcomed and there is a certain makeshift justice in it, but Australians of keener conscience are inclined to see it as a convenient device for evading military service; almost the equivalent of that notorious substitute scheme of the American civil war.

Australia voted against conscription, after many of her sons had volunteered. Those who have opposed conscription are said to be heartily in favor of the eligibles tax. A sound view is that of the *Triad*, published in Sydney, which says:

"In its essence a tax of this kind stands for the purchase of exemption from national duty. It will create the idea that the fit man who stays at home and pays a tax toward the Repatriation Scheme funds is as good a man and as patriotic a citizen as the lads who have made the supreme sacrifice for their flag and their race without hesitating to think about their own personal interests or the feelings of their families."

There is long unpleasantness ahead in Australia if the public grows to accept this view. In such a war as this the volunteer system invites inequalities which will survive, with bitterness, for a generation.

The United States accepted the conscription idea none too willingly, and there is still a lingering of debate on ethical and legal points. But the people of the United States as a whole would not have any other form of military law now. There have been mistakes of the Government and hardships for the individual in numerous cases; generally there has been scrupulous fairness and exact compliance with the law.

Would the United States turn back to blubbering recruiting campaigns, raising a small army of enthusiasts and a large army of avowed slackers? Can we even imagine such a thing now, with our solid system of calling up the fittest, share and share alike? Could national organization and national spirit have reached their present plane without the backing of the military service law?

To all these questions, no.

The people of the United States might have voted against conscription as the people of Australia did. But not to-day.

In counting our numerous blessings let us think of Australia and of our own national method of preparing for our part in the war.

Incidentally, those who hold illusions of the volunteer psychology might read the following, which would be equally true of our country in a hurry call for every man that is eligible in the land:

"There are many people, of course, who take the view that as voluntaryism is the law of the land, we have no right to quarrel with, or put pressure upon, those eligibles who have the hardihood to go on bearing the stigma which in these days is typified by the wearing of civilian garb—in the case, at least, of those who have seen no service. But this view is illusory. It is founded on a fallacy. It entirely overlooks the vital fact that the great majority of the men who have enlisted during the past two years or more have done so under compulsion, not the compulsion of law, but the infinitely greater and more irresistible compulsion which takes form in the pressure of public opinion."

Ask the drafted man or his friends whether it is best to be driven by public badgering or sent by law. The answer will be prompt.

What of Labor?

There is no stranger interpretation of patriotism than the self-imposed rule against mentioning the country's misfortunes. Where public discussion tends toward adjusting a difficulty the expression of public opinion is especially beneficial.

England for a long time suppressed adverse news and criticism. But England learned from experience that suppression is a poor treatment and no cure. There were industrial and political problems in England; they were hidden. There was a growing pacifist propaganda; it was ignored. The industrial situation is freely discussed, now that a million and a half workmen—the war strength of the empire—are rising with solid demands. The pacifist menace is being discussed, now that it has permeated every nook and corner of the state and made itself felt in the nation's daily life.

In America it is no secret that labor's spirit is not unanimous. The shipbuilding programme was set back for months by the strikes in the East and the West. The coal and railroad industries were threatened by industrial unrest—and are still threatened. In this town we have seen the labor of the waterfront, upon which the country depends for service at its greatest port, threaten to tie up shipping operations. In Boston a strike has halted work on an arsenal and on a naval hospital—both of which building operations are vital to successful war work.

From one end of the country to the other the labor barrier has delayed Government projects. England could tell the same story, in spite of her "munitions war act," which prohibits strikes in munition industries and which was strong enough to prevent a railroad strike last summer. English laborers in many trades are now demanding a 100 per cent. increase in wages, apparently without regard for the outcome of the war.

But may we not expect more of American labor? Not only is this country without class distinction, but it pays the highest wages in the world. There is more machinery for assuring justice to the workingman than in any other land. Are American workingmen or "laboring" men, as the term goes, afraid that they will not share in whatever good may come to America with victory? Or are they unwilling to bear their share of hardship in defeat?

Johnson.

The new city directory of Chicago, a place frequently spoken of until Detroit gained a population of 19,842,301, reveals the fact that the Johnsons are still its most numerous family. They outnumber the Smiths 9 to 7, with the Browns and the Joneses trailing in the order named. Chicago is the only great city where the Johnsons lead. In New York they are seventh; in Philadelphia and Boston, fifth. In this town the Johnsons have stood well under the terrific advance, in four short years, of the Cohens and the Levys, as the table shows:

1913.	1917.
Smith,	Cohen,
Brown,	Smith,
Miller,	Brown,
Murphy,	Miller,
Meyer,	Levy,
Johnson,	Murphy,
Kelly,	Johnson,
Cohen,	Kelly,
Levy.	Meyer.

Probably the Johnsons will never be first in the New York list. The immigration which brings so many Johnsons, Andersons and Petersons to the middle West does not stop here. It is likely that many of the Chicago Johnsons are of the Scandinavian branch. In England Johnson is tenth in the list of common names; in Ireland it is rare; in Scotland you find a "t" after the "s."

But what the Johnsons lack in numbers outside of Chicago they make up in distinction. There are five Johnsons in Congress, eight Smiths, nary a Brown, only two Millers, no Cohens or Levys, one Kelly and no Murphys. In literature we have dozens of Johnsons—ROBERT UNDERWOOD and OWEN, ROSSITER, BURGES and PHILANDER. In baseball there are BAN, WALTER and ALBERT. In local Democratic politics, where one Smith stands alone, have we not Johnsons like the fiery JOE and the astute ALFRED J.?

Of all the common American names, which one broke into grand opera as a character? Johnson, of course. What more dramatic line is there than that of *Sheriff Rance* in "The Girl of the Golden West": "Come down, *Mr. Johnson!*" The name of GILLETTE's great farce is not "Too Much Murphy," as it might have been, but "Too Much Johnson."

The Johnsons, from SAMUEL to JACK, have been large figures. Often it is worth while to go and meet a Johnson, even if he is half way down a big State like California.

Among those "10,000 substitutes" Germany has found none for victory.

When I sat on the tack I lost my head. —*A school teacher.*

A point not well taken.

The police who lured some gunmen from their hiding places with invitations to banquets were cruel but crafty. How will the incident affect this season's crop of after dinner speeches?

If Siberia has proclaimed NICKY as Emperor we may expect Chief MURPHY to become president of the Civil Service Reform Association.

That mountain of patriotic intelligence JIM REED of Missouri, having been denied his customary dish of meat for breakfast, informed the keeper of the inn at which this awful hardship was imposed that "if the hotel would keep track for thirty days it would find that on Wednesdays the guests would eat double the amount of meat to make up for what they didn't get on Tuesdays, despite any arguments put forth by the Food Administration." On the same day this outgiving was printed the Food Administration let it be known that "meatless Tuesdays" had resulted in the saving by one great chain of restaurants of seven tons of meat weekly, including about 3,500 pounds of hog meat and 8,300 pounds of beef. JIM REED continues to be as wrong as he is noisy.

Everybody will praise the hoarder of food whose hoardings consist exclusively of food he has refrained from eating.

Suffragette votes to cost New York State $1,000,000 a year.—*Headline.*

A small price for a great blessing.

The shoemaker's children in the proverb always went barefoot. And the burglar who made his way into the home of THOMAS ALVA EDISON encountered no burglar alarm more up to date than a maid—no bells, no automatic signals to police headquarters, no wireless sirens, not even a phonograph to bark like a watchdog at the vibration of an unfamiliar step. It would be interesting to look further into this. Are the shoemaker's children always barefoot, so to speak? Has Mr. VAIL a telephone? Has HENRY FORD a car? Has Mr. WOOLWORTH a nickel or a dime? Maybe there's not a lamp in all Mr. ROCKEFELLER's houses.

Broadway, however, doesn't know the difference between taps and mess call.

The excess profits tax provision is to be made elastic, but—mind you—not excessively so.

Congressmen bursting with information, opinions, instructions from constituents; Congressmen ready to criticise everything in sight and the conduct of the war, which is not in sight; Congressmen feverish with new ideas and Congressmen numb with diseased mental growths—all of these will arise at the coming session. Cheerfully the Administration announced not long ago that Congress would use its vacation to instruct the people. The people have been instructing Congress, and soon Congress will be instructing the Administration about fifteen hours a day. The President of the United States and the head proofreader of the *Congressional Record* expect an interesting session.

If corporal punishment were not at present unfashionable in our higher educational circles, the town might hope to have a few half baked instructors flogged.

If the production of motor cars designed for pleasure riding is reduced 60 per cent., many citizens will have more money than they expected for investment in Liberty bonds.

The news that the League of Humanity has been raided will come as a surprise to many who thought that it was raided in August, 1914.

The "millions for defence" are no longer dollars but men.

Another Alice of Old Vincennes to the Rescue.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Alice, our old cook, suggests the following for a meatless and wheatless day: Baked Wabash River eel, garnished with parsley and flanked by Michigan Irish potatoes, with bread of Indian corn meal. The jackets of the spuds are to be eaten.

J. WHITCOMB CHAFARD.

VINCENNES, Ind., November 12.

Little Brother Thrift Stamp.

Little Brother Thrift Stamp
Feels as proud and fond
As his richer kinsman
Great big Brother Bond.

Little Brother Thrift Stamp
Wants the battles won;
He is worth a quarter,
Gives the Teutons none.

Little Brother Thrift Stamp
Doesn't loaf or shirk,
Day and night, unsleeping,
Sticking to his work.

Little Brother Thrift Stamp
Asks you for your mon.
Smallest scrap of paper
That shall lick the Hun.

McLANDBURGH WILSON.

THE NATION'S HYMN.

Other Anthems Are Equally Difficult to Sing—or to Conduct Properly.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the interview with Nahan Franko which you have published I find Mr. Franko quoted as saying:

"The compass of 'The Star Spangled Banner' is an octave and five-eighths, while the compass of other national airs is within an octave, or does not exceed that limit."

Listen, brother, this from the backwoods of Connecticut:

The "Marseillaise," one octave and one-eighth.

"Die Wacht am Rhein," one octave and five-eighths, with a high F.

Austrian anthem, one octave and four-eighths, with a high F.

Russian anthem, an octave, with high F.

Italian anthem, one octave and one-eighth.

"Rule Britannia," one octave. Impossible!

"God Save the King" and "America," within the octave.

Dear Mr. Franko, you are right when you say that the words are not adapted to the music and that "it is difficult for most persons to reach the notes of 'The Star Spangled Banner,'" but is that the sole property of our national anthem?

Have you ever heard a most hearty rendition of "Die Wacht am Rhein" or "Deutschland über Alles" sung impromptu by a group from the German Singers Union in any gesangverein on a club night? Those soul stirring high Es and Fs!

Or would you go to some church on a Sunday and listen to the singing of "Rise, Crowned With Light!" (tune, Russian National Anthem). High F occurs three times. "Most persons" keep quiet and let the choir do the singing.

And again. "It seems to me, however, that the national anthem conducted by a man whose heart was not in it could have little significance. It would have been better, since 'The Star Spangled Banner' was not a part of a symphonic programme, that the conductor should have given his baton to some member of the orchestra who would not have been influenced by any race question, preferably to a native born American or an American citizen."

The true basis for merit as an artist must be the ability to interpret with authority all branches of that particular art of which he is the technical master. In Dr. Muck's case, if conditions in this country call for the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" as a part of his programme, he ceases to be the artist he is credited with being if he does not study the anthem in all of its aspects with special reference to its traditions. And that study, if thoughtfully done from an artistic standpoint, must make him stand before his men giving his whole being to the correct interpretation of the national anthem. Otherwise he is not an artist, merely a Bavarian music master.

There is known to me a man who, as conductor of a German American singing society, was called upon to direct the singing of "Die Wacht am Rhein" at a concert three years ago. This person is of Scotch-Irish extraction with no pro-German sympathies, merely holding his position in a professional capacity. But with a German audience at his back and 100 German singers under his baton, the artist came to the fore and his individuality was lost in a spirited and patriotic interpretation.

What is the difference, laying aside musical values, between the interpretation by an artist of compositions by Beethoven, Wagner, Tschaikowsky and "The Star Spangled Banner"? Be it the pathos of Beethoven, the wizardry of Wagner, the grief of Tschaikowsky or the inspiring patriotism of our national anthem, the hand holding the baton must be guided in spirit according to the demands of the composition, whether the conductor be Bavarian or American.

B. M. CARUTH.

HARTFORD, Conn., November 14.

TRADE BRIEFS.

New Zealand presents a good market for canvas, sailcloth and ducking of American make. Personal representation and a display of samples are suggested as the most effective methods of securing this business. There is no duty on these goods except the 1 per cent. war tax.

Woollen carpets and blankets, linen, cloth and velvet table covers are needed in Italy.

There is a market in Algeria for tinware, steel, iron, zinc, automobiles, rubber goods, motion picture films, paints, varnishes, paper, cardboard, agricultural machinery, mining tools and drilling equipment for petroleum.

Augers and files are wanted in Italy.

An agency for the sale of calendars is desired by a Spanish firm.

A market exists in Portugal for cooking stoves.

Extensive harbor improvements to cost about $1,200,000 are planned for the coast of British Guiana. Construction firms interested should write to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Bermuda's potato crop for 1917, it is predicted, will exceed that of last year, which amounted to 90,667 bushels.

An Italian firm wishes to secure an agency for American safes, safe deposits, fireproof treasury rooms and safety locks.

Surgical instruments and supplies are in demand in Portugal.

Exporters of wines and foodstuffs are asked to communicate with a dealer in Martinique.

Colombian merchants are in the market for hardware, cotton goods, clothing, paper and twine.

Cotton goods of American make are well received in the Foochow, China, consular district, but American exporters have not endeavored to supply the demand, and Japanese firms are monopolizing the trade.

Talc has been discovered in the Verdite mines, Barberton, Transvaal Province, South Africa. Reports say that the deposit is of good quality.

Waste cotton and textiles of all kinds are needed in France.

Italian firms wish to buy knitting and sewing machines for stockings.

Manufacturers of woollen mill machinery are asked to communicate with an Australian firm.

There is an opportunity in Mexico for the sale of American novelties and notions.

Vulcanized fibre is needed by a cutlery manufacturer in France. Samples of the fibre can be examined at Room 734, Custom House, New York.

Airplane supplies are in demand in Turin, Italy.

Catalogues and prices of broom machinery have been asked for by a Morgan City, La., firm.

Manufacturers of fertilizer mixing machinery will find a market for these supplies in Crystal Springs, Miss.

An Orange County Pet's Conservation.

From the Newburgh News.

Ted Lockwood's dog Bowser, who was located asleep alongside of a ham in Montgomery, through a *News* article, has acquired an appetite for $15 automobile inner tubes. Edward, Jr., recently missed $35 worth of tire equipment. A search disclosed Bowser finishing the inner tube. He had hidden the rubber shoe beneath the garage flooring for a future meal.

GERMANS IN CHINA.

A Shanghai Hotel Declines to Receive Them as Guests.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A Shanghai newspaper of September 29 tells the following story of the expulsion of Teutonic guests from a hotel there:

Allied and neutral guests at the Kalee Hotel recently protested against Germans and Austrians being permitted to continue in residence there, on the ground that their behavior was annoying. The directors at first declined to take action, but, as the result of further representations, the following notice has now been sent to all German and Austrian guests:

"The board of directors, having done everything in their power to accord just treatment to the German and Austrian guests of the hotel, are now confronted with this situation: either the privileges of the hotel must henceforth be denied to persons of German and Austrian nationality or the Allied guests will leave in a body. Under these circumstances we have no alternative but to inform you that, from October 4, German and Austrian subjects will no longer be received or entertained as either resident or transient guests."

Interesting, is it not?

E. D. MILLS.

NEW YORK, November 15.

LILIUOKALANI.

Impressions of a Man Who Interviewed Her Long Ago.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My own early and casual impressions of Liliuokalani were that she was a good sample feminine product of the islands, spot lighted with a sort of imitated royalty of the dollhouse order.

But long interviews with her convinced me that she was a woman of unusual intellect, possessed of wide general information, on which she could discourse readily and with an exceptional choice of diction. Of the mature quasi-public women I have had occasion to interview in newspaper days I should class Liliuokalani as easily ranking in evidences of education and womanly worldliness with Susan B. Anthony, Kate Field, Anna Howard Shaw, Maud Ballington Booth, Mrs. Leland Stanford, Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson—a group which I cannot offset by a similar number of operatic or dramatic stage stars.

The last extended talk I had with Liliuokalani was twenty-one years ago. It mostly concerned her claim of private right to the so-called crown lands of Hawaii, some 200,000 acres, for the adjudication of which she struggled for years, but in vain.

To that "audience with the Queen" I was ushered by a native man and a native woman, who backed and bowed me into the presence of her whom they and all other native Hawaiians ever revered as their Queen. These retainers then stood silent sentinels in the background.

Liliuokalani spoke my name, extended her hand in welcome, and then, with a gracious motion, directed that I be seated in a chair, placed on the opposite side of the table at which she sat in a larger chair.

Perhaps because I had talked with her before or because she felt that the paper I represented was actuated by a desire to be exactly fair and just in presenting her case, she received me without any of those studied effects of dress on which the sex is prone to lavish time in preparation for a similar visitation from a press representative.

Liliuokalani was attired in a light brownish Mother Hubbard, the typical native female house dress of the Hawaiian Islands. She wore no jewelry whatever, and her then abundant hair was combed loosely back and done up behind much after the then prevailing vogue with American matrons.

Liliuokalani talked softly, with an agreeable intonation peculiar to a native tongue that renders vowels musically and has no harsh, hashy, soupy, German aspirates, a well modulated voice characteristic also of women everywhere who are accustomed to self-control and the refinements of life.

On the table before her, part of the time in her lap, lay her ukelele, which in the little interim of my meagre note takings of figures and names she strummed in rather an abstracted way, displaying graceful though rather large hands, for Liliuokalani was herself physically a large woman after the manner of her brown skinned race.

In these days of stress and intense, anxious expectancy of happenings "over there" there should be agreeable diversion in hours spent, after a visit to the public library, in going through the pages of Liliuokalani's autobiography and being taken into an idyllic life that will never exist again in those tropic isles, where were 200,000 native Hawaiians and now are nearly 100,000 Japanese and scarcely a tenth that many real Hawaiians.

ARCHIE RICE.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., November 15.

Voluntary Enlistment by Registered Men.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will you please let me know if after the questionnaires have been distributed the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps will remain open to those who desire to enlist?

I am desirous of entering one of the two branches, but find it impossible until January 1, as I have to straighten up my affairs.

L. B.

NEW YORK, November 15.

We have not heard of a ruling on this point, but think it likely that, as heretofore, registered men will be allowed to enlist at any time prior to the mailing to them of a summons to physical examination before a local board.

Soldiers' Letters in the Civil War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is surprising that in the discussion about the soldiers' letters it occurs to nobody to look for a precedent. At the time of our civil war a soldier in camp or in the field, in writing home, had only to put on the envelope the words "soldier's letter," and the postage was collected on delivery. I think no act of Congress was necessary; it was simply a regulation by the department. That is the direct and easy way to solve the problem. It accommodates the soldier, and the Government loses no revenue. It is not always wise to neglect "ancient history."

ROSSITER JOHNSON.

NEW YORK, November 15.

A Georgian in Retirement.

From the Greensboro Herald-Journal.

When we retired, twenty years ago, our better half told us that the family would not require anything of us—except to chop and bring in all the house wood, all the stove wood, bring up all the water from the spring, get up mornings, make the stove fire, cook breakfast, feed the hogs, work the potatoes and work three-fourths acre in the garden—and to keep a garden the year round means a perpetual year's work—and see that the little grandchildren did not get in the creek and did not get run over by automobiles. That's all!

SERIOUS EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON FRENCH FARMING.

Pertinent Facts as Summarized in a Pamphlet by M. Louis Mangin on the Situation and Prospects of the French Farmer.

At a time when experts announce that food is going to win the war the publication of M. Louis Mangin's remarkable pamphlet "The French Farmer: His Situation and Prospects," is more than opportune. M. Mangin is a member of the Academy of Sciences, and his arguments and figures outweigh in value recent political tracts which, though official, are somewhat vague and never profound. This French writer is never superficial, and is serious and almost startling in his statements without being sensational. People in the United States should have before them such a specimen of what can be done with the war problems of the farmer by not working in the dark and by paying attention to the scientific details of agriculture, training of hands and choice of tools. The practical value of this pamphlet is perhaps even greater than its scientific example.

How serious the food situation is may be seen from the first proposition in M. Mangin's argument: "The prolongation of the war, by keeping mobilized all the man power of the country for the national defence, has left for farming and the cultivation of the soil only a few inexperienced hands. The diminution of the land under cultivation, joined to the scarcity of fertilizer, has had the effect of steadily weakening farm produce. This is true not only of France but of the allied and neutral countries, and we are menaced by a food crisis that will not end with the cessation of hostilities." It seems to follow from this that a field of activity is here opened worthy of the highest effort. The best way toward increasing the resources of the Allies lies through the cultivation of each nation's farms from within. M. Mangin's thesis seems to be that too much must not be expected from imports of food, which is certainly a prudent idea, so long as there are submarines and lack of ships.

Everybody in France is agreed that the shortage of cereals is most serious. Among foodstuffs wheat holds the first place. The annual consumption of wheat in France is 90,000,000 quintals or hundredweight. In normal times production rather exceeds this figure, but between 1914 and to-day there has been a menacing drop. In 1915 production was 60,000,000 quintals; in 1916 it was scarcely 58,000,000; and for this year a further decrease is to be feared.

This enormous deficit is due, in the first place, to the great diminution of sowing. Nearly 2,000,000 acres, it is estimated, have not been sown. The weather too has been unfavorable. A striking fact is that the shortage of wheat in other countries is due to similar conditions—unfavorable weather and the decline of farming. This explains, according to M. Mangin, why the United States produced in 1916 only 172,000,000 quintals, compared with 272,000,000 in 1915.

The scarcity is general, for Canada produced but 45,000,000 quintals in 1916, compared with 105,000,000 in 1915; Argentina 25,000,000 in 1916, compared with 40,000,000 in 1915; while Russia, a great wheat growing country, shows a drop of from 202,000,000 quintals in 1915 to 162,000,000 in 1916. Figures are not always satisfactory, but these agree in most ways with those published by the International Institute of Agriculture, and fairly represent the world shortage. Supplies in France have been reduced owing to the lapse of treaties with Argentina, and the outlook in regard to spring wheat is gloomy.

Production of potatoes has declined. The French figures are: 1913, 116,000,000 quintals; 1914, 120,000,000; 1915, 96,000,000; 1916, 91,000,000. In raising the present crop the French farmer found himself handicapped in several ways. The last crop gave poor material for planting, and disease and insects have inflicted much damage. As a result of the difficulties in obtaining sulphate of copper there are no means of fighting these pests. Similarly, the ravages of the phylloxera will doubtless affect the vines and the amount of the wine crop. The effects of war are manifold.

The question of live stock is no less important. Roughly the farmers of France and Belgium have lost 2,700,000 head of cattle, which were taken by the Germans. Slaughtering for war purposes has reduced the herds still further; probably 1,600,000 head have been destroyed. It is melancholy to read that many sick cattle have been imported, and many that were ill fed and unfit for human food. The number of sheep has declined from 17,500,000 in 1912 to 14,000,000 last year. Pigs, animals which require much fodder, have become scarcer. In 1912 there were 7,035,850, in 1916 4,360,000. A scarcity of meat is sure to come next spring. Already there is a shortage of grain and bread.

M. Mangin devotes considerable space to remedial measures. Steps should be taken at once to provide the farmer with fertilizers. He recommends the building of factories for the manufacture of phosphate, superphosphate and nitrates. Production of sulphate of ammonia must be increased. Much larger amounts of nitrogen must be produced in France by fixing it from the atmosphere. The solution of the wheat and grain problem depends upon success in this direction.

M. Mangin's ultimate opinion is reassuring. France, from sheer mental and physical activity, will create the life and industry she needs. At present the vital question is fertilizer and machinery for the farmer. Great stress is laid upon the latter point. As many of the hand workers are busy at the front, agricultural machinery and tools should be those which as far as possible can be worked by the less skilful. Above all, their working should not require too many hands. At present there are very few tractors in use enough to work five acres a day. The practical problem is to find or import the tools that will do the work of the men and farm animals necessarily employed in national defence. If these machines and fertilizers are provided the prospects of the French harvests seem excellent.

TALES OF THE OLD RIVER.

When the Emigrants' Furniture Was Used for a Steamboat's Fuel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I antedate Mr. Hubbel a bit, for I was born in 1834. The first steamboat I remember was the Robert L. Stevens. I used to watch her with a spyglass as she was leaving the Fishkill dock. That was in 1839 or 1840. I was then a small boy in Newburgh.

In 1844 I went to Albany from Newburgh on the Troy, Captain Gorham. The opposition boat was the South America, Captain Truesdale (or Truesdell). She was faster than the Troy, and Captain Truesdale was a racer. Captain Gorham was not. So the South America went ahead, but when the Troy reached the overslaugh the South America was waiting for her there, stuck in the mud. I distinctly remember how slowly the Troy moved across the bar and how her wheelhouse almost scraped that of the South America as she passed. It was said that Captain Truesdale, having used up all his fuel in his efforts to extricate his boat from the mud, burned up the furniture belonging to a large party of emigrants he had on board. There was quite a rejoicing by the friends of the Troy when she reached her dock in Albany in advance of the South America.

In July, 1852, I waited with my brother on the dock at Newburgh for the arrival from up the river of the Henry Clay, by which we were intending to go to New York. She was so crowded with passengers that we changed our minds and crossed to Fishkill and went down by rail. That was the day the Clay was burned. We returned to Newburgh the following day by the Armenia, and jokes were made by some of the deck hands over the terribly tragic ending of their swifter and more popular rival.

I remember many of the older boats which have been mentioned in these letters—Stevens, Highlander, Empire, Reindeer, Alida, Santa Claus, Oregon, Thomas Powell, et al.—and the old Newburgh and Fishkill ferryboat, the Gold Hunter.

H. O.

NEW YORK, November 15.

The Dell and the Stream Now on the Delaware.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It may interest New Yorkers to know that the Sylvan Dell and the Sylvan Stream have been running here on the Delaware for many years.

Who can recall the Eliza Hancox, the John Sylvester, the Morrisania, the Minnie Cornell, the Josephine and the Albertina and the Sue?

The Colombia, mate to the unfortunate Grand Republic, is also serving her time on the placid Delaware.

HIRAM.

GERMANTOWN, Pa., November 15.

The Dry Calendar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Following is an effusion of a resident of Washington, the capital city, as the result of a Sabbath day visit to Baltimore —the regular thing since prohibition started to prohibit:

Mondays are Sundays,
Tuesdays are blues days,
Wednesdays sad men's days,
Thursdays are curse days,
Fridays are dry days,
Saturdays no matter days,
But Sundays are Bun days!

NEW YORK, November 15. M.

MR. BARNARD'S LINCOLN.

The National Academy of Design Goes on Record as Against It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The following resolution was adopted at the meeting of the Council of the National Academy of Design, held on Monday, November 12:

Whereas the impression prevails that the replicas offered to France and England of a statue of Lincoln by George Grey Barnard in Cincinnati are being offered as gifts from the people of America presumably with the approval of the artists and art organizations of this country, therefore,

Resolved, That the Council of the National Academy of Design hereby asserts that there has been no approval of this statue on the part of the National Academy as a body, and further that the members of this Council as here assembled do not consider that the statue adequately portrays Lincoln. In a work of this kind all must agree that character and likeness are essentials. But to us this presentation does not convey the recognized characteristics of Lincoln. In it we are unable to discern evidence of his genius or humor or any of those lofty qualities which are invariably associated with the great name.

HARRY W. WATROUS, Secretary.

NEW YORK, November 13.

GREAT ART SECRET TOLD.

Louis's Didactics Provoke Revelation From the Linnet of Linden.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* While you are a very good judge of literary matters, I am afraid you do not understand much about art, or you would not have been misled into giving space to such advice on landscape painting as was set forth by Louis M. Eilshemius.

As every one in New York knows I have made an exhaustive study of the subject, and never have I found that dabs and splashes, when surrounded by heavy lines, taken in the aggregate make satisfactory landscapes, as he claims.

This particular phase of painting requires an experienced eye in the blending of colors. My success may be attributed to the fact that I save all the water in which my brushes have been washed in airtight quart jars. A mixture of this kind when well stirred and drawn across the canvas in firm even strokes produces a variety of delicate shadings which can be attained in no other way.

MARY A. [illegible]

LINDEN, N. J., November [illegible].

A Seatless Day.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that women have suffrage rights equal to those of men, would it not be a good idea to suggest that some of the men who patronize public vehicles be compelled to observe at least one seatless day a week for the benefit of the [illegible] woman? Women with knitting bags, at least, should not be compelled to stand.

WALLACE W[illegible].

NEW YORK, November 15.

Courtesy at the Ballot Box.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why worry about giving your position [illegible] to a woman voter? Haven't [illegible] stepped aside on other lines [illegible] subway ticket offices and theatre ticket offices? It is all well [illegible] of courtesy, but it does [illegible] that it applies to such times.

E. [illegible]

NEW YORK, November 1[illegible].